

WE CLAIM:

1. A method comprising:
determining whether a subject has suffered an injury to an excitable tissue;
and
administering to the subject therapeutically effective amounts of
compounds, wherein the compounds comprise a sodium channel blocker,
a non-specific protease inhibitor, and a corticosteroid.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the sodium channel blocker is
procaine.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the non-specific protease is
leupeptin.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the corticosteroid is selected from
the group consisting of methylprednisone and hydrocortisone hemisuccinate.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the corticosteroid is
methylprednisone.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the non-specific protease inhibitor is
administered as an ice-cold perfusate.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein the compounds are administered as a
single drug dose.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein the compounds are administered in
separate drug dosages.
9. The method of claim 1, wherein the compounds are administered
within eight hours of the injury to the excitable tissue.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the compounds are administered within four hours of the injury to the excitable tissue.
11. The method of claim 10, wherein the compounds are administered within two hours of the injury to the excitable tissue.
12. The method of claim 1, wherein one or more of the compounds is administered systemically.
13. The methods of claim 1, wherein one or more of the compounds are administered by perfusion at or near the injured tissue.
14. The method of claim 1, wherein the injury is to the central nervous system.
15. The method of claim 14, wherein the injury is to the brain.
16. The method of claim 15, wherein the injury results from ischemic damage to the brain.
17. The method of claim 16, wherein the injury results in stroke.
18. The method of claim 14, wherein the injury is to the spinal cord.
19. The method of claim 1, wherein the injury is to the heart.
20. The method of claim 19, wherein injury is myocardial infarction.
21. The method of claim 1, further comprising decompressing the injured tissue.
22. The method of claim 1, further comprising reperfusing the injured tissue.

23. A composition comprising:
a sodium channel blocker;
a non-specific protease inhibitor;
a corticosteroid; and
a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

24. The composition of claim 23, wherein the composition comprises therapeutically effective amounts of the sodium channel blocker, the protease inhibitor, and the corticosteroid.

25. A kit comprising:
a sodium channel blocker;
a non-specific protease inhibitor; and
a corticosteroid.

25. The kit of claim 24, further comprising separate containers for storing the sodium channel blocker, the non-specific protease inhibitor, and the corticosteroid.

26. The kit of claim 25, wherein the containers are color coded to allow for easy identification of the contents of the containers.

27. The kit of claim 24, wherein the sodium channel blocker, the protease inhibitor, and the corticosteroid are each in dosage forms.

28. The kit of claim 27, wherein the sodium channel blocker, the protease inhibitor, and the corticosteroid are in a single dosage form.